

School of Public and International Affairs
Department of Public Administration and Policy
University of Georgia
PADP 4200: Introduction to Policy Analysis
Fall 2016

Instructor

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Office Hours: Baldwin Hall 211, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Wednesdays, and by appointment.

Time and Location

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Tuesday, and Thursday

Baldwin Hall, Room 311

Course Description and Objectives

There has been a long challenge of the public policy to improve the quality of life in light of the management of American government. Public policy decisions touch every aspect of daily life although not many people realize or understand the full impact of them. Public decisions are made based on the policy problems we face, and policy analysis are practiced to interpret policy relevant information to ultimately find the policy alternative. This course will introduce the tools of policy analysis (both in theory and practice) and practical strategies for interpreting, illustrating, and evaluating public policies. Students will assess current policy and administrative problems facing this nation.

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of public policy. This course is designed to provide students with the theoretical and practical skills necessary to interpret and analyze the research and practice in the public policy literature. Students will be given the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to current public policy problems and issues. Students are expected to improve their logical skills and thoughts demonstrating their written and research work.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the complexity of public policy issues and the challenges associated with public policy analysis;
2. Enhance the ability to analyze policy problems, and find creative solutions;
3. Learn how to communicate the results of your analysis to managers, decision-makers, and the general public.

Student progress on these competencies will be measured through writing, class discussions, and exams.

Required Textbooks

- Weimer, David L, & Aidan R. Vining. 2010. *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, 5th edition. Routledge. (You can buy older edition.)

Computers, cellphones, and other electronic devices

The use of laptops and other note-taking electronics (such as tablets) is permitted, so long as web-browsing software is not in use during class (no Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, emails, messages, newspapers, etc.). Any instance of inappropriate use of this policy will result in loss of computing privileges. Cell phone use is not permitted during class. Cell phones must be off, silenced, or vibrated, or in “airplane mode” during class.

Students with Disabilities

Students who have a disability that requires accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center to discuss their needs and obtain appropriate paperwork.

Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for abiding by the University of Georgia’s Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy. All academic work must meet the standard contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for knowing, understanding, and adhering to these policies before performing (and submitting) and academic work. More information on academic honesty can be found at:

<https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty>

This syllabus is a general plan for the course, which may be changed or updated for any number of reasons as the semester progresses. The instructor will announce any necessary alterations to the class.

Course Requirements

For success in this course, students will need to come to class prepared. This means that students need to have completed the assigned reading(s) prior to coming class. While in class students are expected to behave in a professional manner. Inappropriate behavior in classes will not be tolerated. Specifically, please arrive on time, be respectful of your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from distracting activities such as side conversations, updating social media, or misusing computers. Also, make sure that all mobile phones are silenced or turned off.

Student grades will be based on homework, two short papers, a midterm examination, a final examination, and in-class participation, as detailed below. All work should be completed in accordance with the University of Georgia’s Academic Honesty Policy.

Midterm Examination (20%)

Two Short Papers (20% --10% per paper)

Group Project & Presentation (15%)

Final Examination (20%)

In-Class Participation (25%)

Class Schedule and Readings

The course reading schedule for the textbooks, journal articles, and cases is detailed below. Often this reading is very technical and challenging. Students are encouraged to email the instructor with questions if necessary. Students should have a strong background in American politics. Knowledge of macro- and micro-economics is a plus. However, I will teach the course in a way that makes success possible for students of all academic backgrounds.

The first part of the week (Tuesday) is a lecture- and theory-based class. The second part of the week (Thursday) is a discussion-based class about articles and real-life examples. Once you read the course readings, bring your own thoughts, critiques, and questions so that we can discuss the topics in-depth during the class.

Additional readings may be added based on current events and class progress towards learning objectives. Case discussion resources will be distributed occasionally during the class, or in advance. As previously stated, this is a general plan for the course and may be changed. Journal and news articles will be disseminated via email, ELC, or handed out in class.

Week 1: Course Overview

Week 2: Introduction to American Public Policy Context and Policy Analysis

Week 3: Goals, Values and Features of Public Organization

Week 4: Efficiency and Market Failure

Week 5: Other Limitations and Goals

Week 6: Government Failures

Week 7: Theories and Politics of Public Policy

Week 8: Defining a Problem & Agenda Setting

Mid-term Exam

Week 9: Implementation & Budgeting

Week 10: Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches to Implementation

Week 11: Instruments of Public Policy

Week 12: Cost-Benefit Analysis

Week 13: Evaluation

Week 14: Group Presentations

Week 15: Future of Public Policy

Final Exam